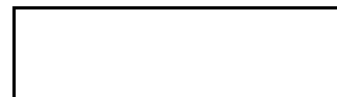


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**Nº 040**

18 June 1973

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Approved For Release 2003/08/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024700110001-5

Approved For Release 2003/08/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024700110001-5

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18 June 1973

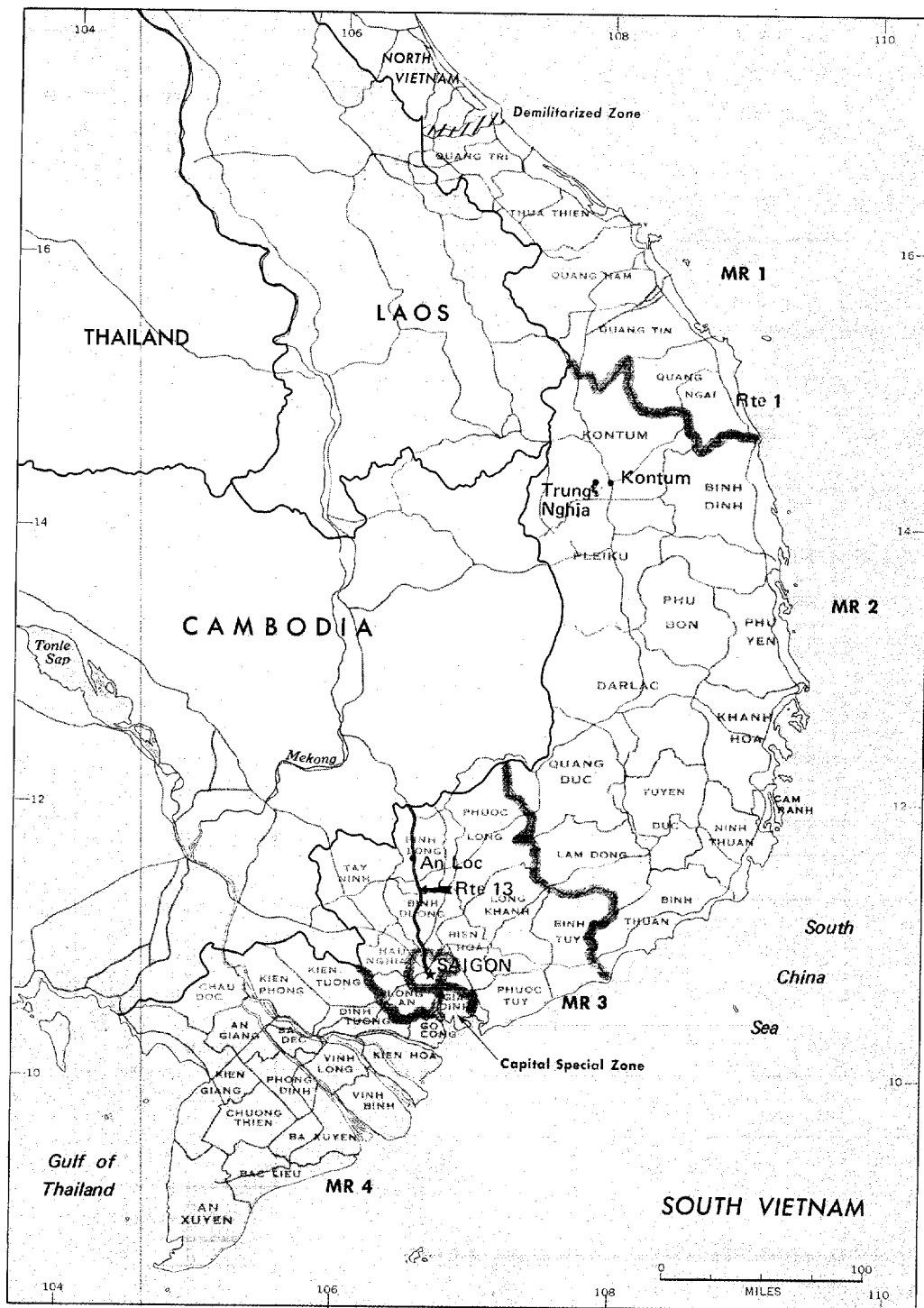
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SOUTH VIETNAM: Fighting appears to have tapered off throughout most of the country, but it is still too early to determine if the trend will continue.

Military action in the delta on 17 June was significantly reduced from the previous day. Government commanders attribute the lighter activity in part to heavy rains throughout the region. The provinces around Saigon have been quiet since the start of the new cease-fire, and government sources report that all roads in the region are open, except Route 13 to An Loc.

Sharp fighting continues in Kontum Province, and field reports indicate that South Vietnamese units trying to recapture Trung Nghia village--which the Communists occupied on 9 June--are taking heavy casualties. Despite the losses, the government commander reportedly has ordered operations to continue until the area is again in government hands.

In Military Region 1, the northernmost provinces continue quiet, but to the south South Vietnamese units are probing contested areas in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces. The Communists are reacting with shellings and ground attacks. Fighting is likely to continue and could escalate as South Vietnamese forces try to consolidate their control of territory near strategic areas of Route 1.

Both sides have instructed their units to honor the new cease-fire. Each remains skeptical of the other's intentions, however, and both have informed their forces to remain vigilant and vigorously defend the areas they control.

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